(b) Yes, Sir. On account of suicide cases or attempt thereof, Metro Train Services are disrupted. The particular track is suspended till the dead body is removed because traction power is required to be switched off.

(c) RPF, Metro Railways Police and the Ticket checking staff have been instructed to keep vigilance over the commuters. Regular Co-ordination meeting is held with Railway Police authorities.

New pension scheme for railway employees

5480. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways is going to introduce a new pension scheme for the railway employees,

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the view of railway workers in respect of this scheme; and

(d) by when it is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Railways would introduce a new Pension Scheme for railway employees if a final decision is taken by the Government of India to introduce a new Pension Scheme for all Central Government employees. Since the existing Railway Pension Scheme is based on the existing Central Government Pension Scheme, any new scheme for Railway employees would also be based on the new Pension Scheme decided upon by the Central Government for all Government employees.

(b) to (d) The Railway employees are governed by the Pension Scheme formulated by the Department of Pension & Pensioners; Welfare (DOP&PW), the nodal department of the Government of India on pension policy matters under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions. The features of the new Pension Scheme and the date from which the scheme will become effective are not known to the Ministry of Railways as a decision in this respect is yet to be taken by the DOP&PW. As the decision of the DOP&PW on pensionary matters in respect of all

Central Government employees is required to be applied *mutatis mutandis* to the railway employees, separate consultation with the railway employees is not necessary.

Construction of unauthorised railway crossings

†5481. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many accidents are taking place at unmanned railway crossings;

(b) if so, the number of people killed in accidents at unmanned railways crossing, during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to negligence of Railways and delay in granting permission for construction of railway crossings, local public resort to construct their own unauthorised crossing for their use; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Number of persons killed at unmanned level crossing were 201, 138 and 158 during the year 1999-2000 and 2001-2002 respectively. (Figures for 2001-2002 are provisional).

(c) and (d) According to provision of Indian Railway Act, 1989 accommodation works are provided at the time of laying of a new line in consultation with State Government and thereafter upto a period of ten years at Railway's cost. Thereafter, any accommodation work is provided at the cost of the authority demanding such facility. As per rules no new unmanned level crossing is permitted in view of safety. Only manned level crossing, duly sponsored by State Government/local bodies, agreeing to bear the initial capital cost as well as capitalized maintenance cost and fulfilling other requirement as per rules are allowed. On receipt of such proposals prompt action is taken by Railways. No unauthorised crossings are allowed to be constructed. However trespassing across Railways tracks

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.